

CA CyanoHAB Network (CCHAB Network) Meeting

Draft Notes

September 29, 2016

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Coastal Hearing Room, 2nd Floor CalEPA Building
1001 I Street Sacramento, CA.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Updates

- a) North Coast Region (1) - Upper Klamath Lake:
 - i) Oregon Posted part of the lake.
 - ii) Most of the reservoirs have low levels, below posting.
 - iii) Copco's boom is declining.
 - iv) Iron Gate is showing higher levels of toxins and is posted at warning level.
 - v) There is no issue below Iron Gate Dam.
- b) North Coast Region (1) - Downstream of the Klamath/North Coast
 - i) There are low levels of toxins at the I-5 Bridge.
 - ii) Humboldt does not have funding for a regular monitoring program and had posted caution signs at most lakes.
 - iii) Eel River, Russian River, posted at caution.
 - iv) There was a do not drink advisory posted at Lake Pillsbury resort (This was a unique situation and not precedent setting) for Anatoxin-A. The do not drink advisory has been lifted.
- c) San Francisco Bay Region (2)
 - i) Main bloom at Lake Temescal.
 - ii) As of August 2016 Lake Anza is still closed.
 - iii) San Jose had 2 lake closures.
 - iv) Closing lakes when Microcystin is 6 parts per billion.
- d) Discovery Bay
 - i) There was a significant bloom over the summer in Discovery Bay – most samples were non-detect for toxins.
 - ii) One of the challenges is the water moves constantly, counter clock wise, allowing a bloom in one area to quickly spread throughout Discovery Bay.
 - iii) One of the major challenges is most of the water access is privately owned making posting signs difficult.
 - iv) Discovery Bay is an area high in recreation including boating, kayaking, water trampolines and dogs.
 - v) Question: How have businesses reacted to sign posting? There has been a lot of push back especially from the real estate business.

- vi) Contra Costa posts results of toxin testing on their website.
- e) Central Coast Region (3)
 - Nothing to report.
- f) Los Angeles Region (4)
 - i) Pyramid Lake has a bloom – finished drinking water had some Microcystin in it. The finished water had higher levels of Microcystin than the raw water. A do not drink was posted but has since been removed. The do not drink only affected the visitor center at the lake and not the community.
- g) Central Valley Region (5)
 - i) Lake Britton was non-detect a week ago for Anatoxin-A, the caution sign was removed.
 - ii) Mountain Lake was non-detect and the caution sign was removed.
 - iii) Lake Orville had bloom but no toxins detected.
 - iv) Chico has similar issues to Discovery Bay with a residential neighborhood on a man-made lake.
 - v) Delta has a problem at Big Break Shoreline.
 - vi) Stockton to Antioch has high levels of Microcystin.
 - vii) South Delta Fabian Tract has huge Microcystis bloom.
 - viii) Clifton Court Forebay at Caution level.
 - ix) Kern River has some blooms and possible fish and bird kill but unconfirmed at this time.
 - x) No toxins were detected for Mountain Meadow Lake in August 2016.
 - xi) Note: The Abraxas test strips have poor instructions on how to use the strips.
 - (1) SWAMP is looking for feedback from test strip users so clear instructions can be written for new Abraxas users.
- h) Lahontan Region (6)
 - i) Nothing to report.
- i) Los Angeles Region (4)
 - i) Pyramid Lake has a bloom – finished drinking water had some Microcystin in it. The finished water had higher levels of Microcystin than the raw water. A do not drink was posted but has since been removed. The do not drink only affected the visitor center at the lake and not the community.
- j) Colorado River Region (7)
 - i) Nothing to report
- k) Santa Ana Region (8)
 - i) Lake Elsinore still has high levels of Microcystin seen so far, above danger and is still posted at Danger.
- l) San Diego Region (9)
 - i) Nothing to report.

Presentations - The PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the CCHAB Network web page.

- a) Update on Clear Lake cyanotoxin monitoring program – Sarah Ryan and Karola Kennedy
 - i) In 2009 HAB problem started to be a major issue in Clear Lake.
 - ii) In 2013 a dog death triggered the monitoring program which consists of 17 locations.
 - iii) Water Quality is also performed at monitoring locations.
 - iv) 2015 cell identification started.
 - v) 2016 collected Chlorophyll-a and Phycocyan measurements.
 - vi) Started collecting data on toxins in fish and shellfish tissue.
 - vii) Question: Will you be writing/publishing information on cyanotoxin build up in fish tissue data? Yes, it will be added to the public information.
 - viii) Question: Who do you call about wildlife deaths? The public does not know who to call and when to call.
- b) Presentation on PG&E efforts to reduce and mitigate HABs – Edward Cheslak
 - i) There seems to be a correlation between critically dry years and bloom intensity.
 - ii) Low levels of Anabaena are considered natural for the lake.
 - iii) There is confusion over what criteria for Anatoxin-A is used for posting. Is it based on dogs drinking the water or eating scum?
 - iv) Lake Britton users do not respond to signs. There is disconnect between what the public sees/perceives and the toxin analysis. The lake looks clear but still has toxins .
 - v) The cost of sampling is high so it's hard to take regular samples throughout a bloom.

Subcommittee Updates

- a) Statewide Guidance Subcommittee – Sandy McNeel
 - i) The Statewide Guidance Subcommittee is looking for volunteers to help draft remaining sections of the guidance.
 - ii) November 7, 2016 is when the draft section is due.
 - iii) Consensus gained from network to update the guidance.
- b) Charter and Governance Subcommittee – Angela Murvine
 - i) See Charter section below under “Co-Chair Items Seeking Consensus”.
 - ii) Question: Is it possible to consider a name change for the document? We are open to suggestions.
- c) WEB Portal – Architecture Subcommittee – Jon Marshack
 - i) Looking for input on the layout, flow and use of the web portal.
 - ii) Question: When filling out the report a bloom form does it go anywhere else besides just placing a dot on the map? – The form goes to SWAMP which will eventually expand the use of the form. SWAMP will contact local water managers when a bloom is reported.

- iii) It's not easy to find the portal when a person is not familiar with the State Water Boards website.
 - iv) There is concern that the dot looks like it represents the whole water body when only a small part is actually affected.
 - v) Question: Can an image of the actual bloom and press release be attached to the dot on the map?
 - vi) Question: Can dots be lines for rivers?
 - vii) Question: What is defined as boom condition, what is considered a bloom?
 - viii) Question: Is it possible to attach a press release to each dot and provide to a local contact?
- d) Education & Factsheets Subcommittee – Reggie Linville
 - i) Contact Reggie if interested in helping with this subcommittee.
 - e) Monitoring & Assessment Subcommittee – Bev Anderson-Abbs
 - i) No updates at this time.
 - f) *Data Subcommittee – Proposed at June 30, 2016 CCHAB Network meeting – Marisa Van Dyke
 - i) Question: Can there be a spot on the portal for tips from users of sampling kits to other users.
 - ii) Question: Can a tutorial be done on the HAB Workbook in the off season?
 - g) Mitigation Subcommittee – Carolyn Rutton
 - i) Working on removing HABs from waters.
 - ii) Looking at alternative uses for algae.
 - iii) Looking for suggestions on mitigation types.
 - h) Wildlife Impacts Subcommittee – Reggie Linville
 - i) We are still working on gathering data on wildlife impacts.

General Updates

- a) Quarterly meeting of California Water Quality Monitoring Council (WQMC) (held on August 23, 2016) - Jon Marshack
 - i) All information presented at the WQMC is on the WQMC web page.
- b) One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System (OHHABS) – Sandy McNeel
 - i) Visit CDC CyanoHAB website to find OHHABs.
 - ii) Question: How does OHHAB benefit CA? – There is a chance for the state to learn more about exposure to HABs on a long term scale? Tribes, counties and other agencies do not always have best relations. This is a place for them to submit information to a third party without a conflict of interest.

- iii) Question: Can we make the CDCs, OHHABs and the SWAMP forms interchangeable/compatible with each other. Will data be lost if people only use OHHABs.
- iv) Questions: How hard is the CDC pushing for States to participate?
- c) Freshwater bloom incident response and interagency coordination– Greg Gearheart
 - i) In the off season there will be a review of what did and did not work.
 - ii) Question: Is it possible to involve the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment in the response structure?
 - iii) Question: How would you incorporate the state level duty officer with the regions who already have a chain of command?

Co-Chair Items seeking Consensus

- a) The Co-Chairs brought two items to the Network for consensus. Consensus was obtained from the Network on both items.
 - i) CCHAB name change from California Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom Network (CCHAB) to California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom Network (still CCHAB). This is part of encompassing all freshwater HABs (i.e. golden algae) in California, and acknowledging coordination with the ocean CalHABMAP efforts. Consensus was obtained and the name change will be reflected on the web pages and on all future documents.
(1) Approved 9/29/16
 - ii) CCHAB Draft Charter. Some changes were recommended and accepted to the Draft Charter. The charter was then accepted by the CCHAB Network through consensus. The adopted Charter has been posted on the web page.
(1) Adopted 9/29/16

Other

- a) Next CCHAB Meeting January 26, 2017.

Action Items:

1. Jennifer Timmons: Post Draft Notes from CCHAB Network meeting on CCHAB webpage.
2. CCHAB Co-chairs: Next agenda extend time for Bloom Updates.
3. Everyone: Send images of HABs to Jon Marshack for web portal.
4. Katharine Carter: will contact Angela Murvine with availability of North Coast Regional Board (Region 2) to host a CCHAB Network meeting.
5. Everyone: Send Angela Murvine or Sandy McNeel your contact information by October 7, 2016 if you are interested in joining the Guidance Update Subcommittee.
6. Everyone who signed up to update the Guidance document: Rough drafts of the guidance update are due to Sandy McNeel by November 7, 2016.
7. Those using the Anatoxin-A field test strips: send information about your test methods and results to SWAMP (Bev Anderson-Abbs), if possible include photos of test strips. This will help us in determining the effectiveness of these field methods and in providing future guidance.
8. The Water Board's Office of Information Management and Analysis (OIMA) staff: will develop a survey of "Lessons Learned" in bloom reporting and communication for people to complete in the off-season.
9. In winter 2016, add a "Lessons Learned" page to HABs Portal to discuss HAB monitoring from the past bloom seasons. The test strips need to be the major item for this bloom season.
10. Develop list of possible mitigation measures to HABs to post on HABs Portal.